

# Predictable, trite comedy turns out far from 'super'

By Gerri Pare  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — When Louie (Joe Pesci) is given his first rat-infested tenement by his major-league slum landlord father, Big Lou (Vincent Gardenia), his luck runs out and the court makes him *The Super* (20th Century Fox).

Forced to live in the crumbling building with his own tenants for four months or face jail, foul-mouthed Louie gets a taste of his own medicine. His jazzy red sports car is immediately stripped bare and he's confined to a filthy flat without heat or hot water.

Surprisingly, little Tito (Kenny Blank) hangs around trying to understand how he could be so mean and another neighbor (Ruben Blades) obligingly lets Louie play cards and basketball with the guys, winning enough from Louie to pay the back

rent.

Before long, Louie is risking his father's ire by buying a new boiler for his fellow sufferers, whom he has begun to notice are actually people, not just cash cows.

Director Rod Daniel takes an amusing concept and ruins it with heavy-handed humor and trite stick figures. What could be a subtle comedy of a crass rich man becoming sensitized to the needs of others is reduced to a shrill and depthless clanky affair. Gardenia and Pesci can't do much with their one-dimensional characters, though Blades and Blank have better luck seeming like real people. The fake fantasy ending is the last yawn in a movie that's far, far from super.

Due to much rough language and some base sexual references, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



Eric Liebovitz-Twentieth Century Fox  
Joe Pesci (right) portrays slumlord Louie Kritski, who is ordered by the courts to live in one of his own decrepit tenements in *The Super*. Ruben Blades plays Marion, a crafty street hustler.

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Last Month's Winner: **Steve DeLucia** of Webster correctly identified **Signorey Weaver** as the actress who starred in *The Year of Living Dangerously* and *Ghost Busters*.

RULES: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT, NOVEMBER 13th. Random drawing of correct entries to be held NOVEMBER 15th by Catholic Courier Representatives. Entries must be returned by mail to: Catholic Courier, Movie Trivia, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, NY 14624-1899. Winner will be notified by mail. Prize is one year of Wegmans Video Rentals (membership is free and is required). Prize is not exchangeable for cash or other merchandise.

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Ann Marie, her husband Ronald, and their two children are members of St. Ambrose Parish.